I claim:

1. A computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure for use in providing a graphical icon for display on a display of a portable communications device, characterized in that said data structure is encoded as digital data indicative of said graphical icon defined by alternating light and dark stripes, that selected stripes of said light and dark stripes change from light to dark and back to light to indicate a shadow adjacent an edge of said icon and from dark to light and back to dark to indicate a highlight adjacent another edge of said icon, and that altogether said light and dark stripes with shadows and highlights provide said icon with a three-dimensional appearance.

2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, characterized in that said data structure is encoded according to a portable bitmap file format.

3. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, characterized in that said data structure is encoded according to a portable graymap file format.

4. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, characterized in that said data structure is encoded according to a portable color image file format.

5. A communication device, comprising:

means, responsive to an event in the communication device, for providing an event signal;

a computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure for use in providing a graphical icon for display on a display of a portable communications device, wherein said data structure is encoded as digital data indicative of said graphical icon defined by alternating light and dark stripes, that selected stripes of said light and dark stripes change from light to dark and back to light to indicate a shadow adjacent an edge of said icon and from dark to light and back to dark to indicate a highlight adjacent another edge of said icon, and that altogether said light and dark stripes with shadows and highlights provide said icon with a three-dimensional appearance; and

means, responsive to the event signal, for retrieving the digital data from the computer-readable medium and causing said display of said graphical icon on said display according to said retrieved digital data.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein said data is encoded according to a portable bitmap file format.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, characterized in that said data structure is encoded according to a portable graymap file format.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, characterized in that said data structure is encoded according to a portable color image file format.

9. Method of displaying an icon on a portable communication device, comprising the steps of:

retrieving, in response to an event signal, digital data from a computer-readable medium, wherein said digital data is indicative of said icon defined by alternating light and dark stripes, that selected stripes of said light and dark stripes change from light to dark and back to light to indicate a shadow adjacent an edge of said icon and from dark to light and back to dark to indicate a highlight adjacent another edge of said icon, and that altogether said light and dark stripes with shadows and highlights provide said icon with a three-dimensional appearance; and

displaying said icon in response to said digital data..

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said digital data is encoded according to a portable bitmap file format.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said digital data is encoded according to a portable graymap file format.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein said digital data is encoded according to a portable color image file format.